

Hopkinton Budget Committee
February 4, 2009
Draft Meeting Minutes

Present: David Lancaster, Danny Coen, Patrice Gerseny, Karen Irwin – Chair, Cameron Ford, Marion Paxton, Tom O'Donnell – HVP, Bob Carpenter – CVP, David Luneau – SAU, Chris Lawless – Selectmen.

Absent: None

Meeting Start: 6:33 pm

Meeting End: 9:15 pm

Chair Irwin opened the meeting with a review of budget updates.

Presenter: David Luneau
School Board

Mr. Luneau passed out several updates from the SAU that had been requested by the committee among the papers was a memo from Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendant concerning the funding for the school district and the Repair and Maintenance Trust details. Mr. Luneau reminded the committee that the school board is waiting until after their Public Hearing to make changes.

Presenter: Chris Lawless
Town

Mr. Lawless passed out the draft warrant and had no changes.

He stated the Fire Chief wanted the capitol reserve increased to \$100K which is now at \$60K. He advised the Selectmen told the chief that the request was too late for this year.

At the Selectmen's next meeting, 2/17, Mr. Lawless will address charging full price for ambulance service to all Hopkinton residents. He advised that it could be a possible warrant article. The Hopkinton Ambulance does not yet have a contract with the other two towns. The other towns, Webster and Warner go after the extra \$200 or so that the insurance does not pay.

The committee discussed the COLAs and reminded Mr. Lawless that they passed not to support that part of the budget.

Mr. Lawless mentioned changing the fiscal year. It was agreed that to have the fiscal year slowly changed to the school end of year – June - would be ideal. Doing so would have to be done gradually in order to limit the financial impact.

Chair Irwin reiterated that the Budget Committee recommends splitting dispatch costs between fire and ambulance.

Mr. Lawless passed out a memo from Leon Kenison, Town Administrator, concerning 2008 donations.

David Luneau brought the posting date of the Notice of Hearing to the committees' attention. He asked if it was actually posted on January 30 and was told that it was. A discussion followed as to whether it was actually 7 days as required in RSA 32:5.1.

Patrice Gerseny moved to question whether the 7 days was met. Cameron Ford seconded.

A vote was taken. Yes 8 No 2

Mr. Kenison attempted to call the town attorney and Mr. Luneau tried to call the school attorney. Neither the town attorney nor the school board attorney was available to advise them.

While looking over the booklet Chair Irwin prepared for distribution at the Public Hearing, Ms. Gerseny noticed differences in what the committee had discussed and voted on and what was included in the booklet. After some discussion, Chair Irwin stated that she would investigate.

Mr. Lawless agreed to get the actual amount of the COLAs so the committee could reduce it department accordingly.

The committee returned to the school updates.

Presenter: David Luneau

School

Mr. Luneau explained the 2 outstanding contracts.

The Teamsters, 10 maintenance workers, have agreed to a 5 year contract.

Bob Carpenter moved to remove the amount of the COLAs. Danny Coen seconded.

A vote was taken. Yes 8 No 1 Abstain 1

HESS, Hopkinton Education Support Staff, have agreed to a 2 year contract.

Dave Lancaster moved to remove the amount of the COLAs from the base pay. Patrice Gerseny seconded.

A vote was taken. Yes 8 No 1 Abstain 1

Presenter: Tom O'Donnell

Hopkinton Village Precinct

Mr. O'Donnell related that he spoke with the water division and they made a \$900 decrease to their budget,

Tom O'Donnell put the change to a vote. Dave Lancaster seconded.

A vote was taken. Yes 11 No 0

Presenter: Bob Carpenter

Contoocook Village Precinct

Mr. Carpenter stated that they just made some changes to a couple of lines.

Mr. Lawless stated he would get the Selectmen's' proposed budget for Chair Irwin tomorrow.

Using original figures Bob Carpenter calculated the Town Operating Budget bottom line from the Budget Committee as \$5,150,911 and the selectmen bottom line as \$5,227,507.

Minutes of previous meeting were addressed.

The minutes of 1/7/09

Patrice Gerseny moved to accept the minutes as amended. Marion Paxton seconded.

A vote was taken. Yes 11 No 0

The minutes of 1/14/09

Cameron Ford moved to accept the minutes as amended. Dave Lancaster seconded.

A vote was taken. Yes 11 No 0

The minutes of 1/21/09

Cameron Ford moved to accept the minutes as amended. David Luneau seconded.

A vote was taken. Yes 11 No 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Clark
Secretary